REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed January 26, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 12-15, 26, and 27, but indicated that claims 5-11 and 16-25 were allowable if rewritten in independent format. In this response, Applicant has amended claims 1, 12 and 26 to incorporate the elements formerly of claims 2, 13, and 27, respectively, which have now been canceled. Claims 3-7 and 14-18 have been amended only to change dependency from canceled claims to one of amended claims 1, 12, and 26. No new matter has been added with this amendment.

Claims 1-4, 12-15, 26, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Easton et al., (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0046205) in view of Ito (U.S. Patent No. 6,820,155). Applicant traverses this rejection as follows.

The combination of Easton and Ito fails to teach or suggest generating interrupts in a transfer of symbols between fingers of a rake receiver and a processor, where the interrupts have a rate of generation per unit time independent of a time rate of symbol boundaries of said symbols, as recited by amended claims 1, 12, and 26. In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Ito discloses this element (formerly in claims 2, 13, and 27) at col. 1, lines 35-44 and col. 2, lines 4-41. Office Action, pp. 2-3. However, nothing in the cited portions of Ito, or in either Easton or Ito as a whole, teaches or suggests at least this specific element of independent claims 1, 12, and 26.

Easton discloses an integrated search processor used in a modem (abstract). Ito discloses an interruption management method and device capable of handling multiple interrupts (column 2, line 17) "to enable the content of interrupt processing... to be

changed easily when it is necessary to change interrupt handler processing" (column 3, lines 30-34). Ito also discloses an interrupt management apparatus that processes interrupts according to an assigned interrupt priority level (column 6, lines 14-21).

Neither Easton nor Ito mentions the generation of "interrupts in a transfer of symbols...where the interrupts have a rate of generation per unit time independent of a time rate of symbol boundaries of said symbols". Ito teaches a method that makes it possible to "construct task switching processing that does not depend on processing within the OS for an application system implemented on a personal computer" (column 14, lines 28-31). While the task switching processing in Ito may be independent from the processing, Ito fails to mention a time rate of symbol boundaries and does not suggest a rate of generation per unit time independent of a time rate of symbol boundaries as recited in amended claims 1, 12 and 26. Further, Ito is specifically limited to processing within a personal computer, not the transfer of information between a rake receiver and a processor as is recited in claims 1,12, and 26.

Therefore, neither Easton nor Ito, alone or in combination, teach or suggest all of the elements of claims 1, 12, and 26, and Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable over these prior art references for at least the above reasons. Claims 3-11, 14-25, and 27, which depend from one or more of independent claims 1, 12, and 26, are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 5-11 and 16-25 in the previous Office Action and respectfully submit that these claims remain allowable.
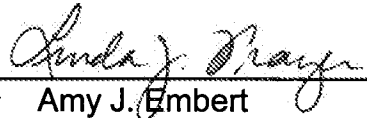
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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